

~~63~~ ~~66~~ ~~24~~
~~76.~~ The bipolar separator plate of claim ~~66~~, wherein the second porous, electrically conducting flowfields are metal mesh selected from titanium, stainless steel, aluminum, magnesium, and alloys thereof.

~~71~~ ~~70~~ ~~59~~
The bipolar separator plate of claim ~~64~~, wherein the first and second porous, electrically conducting flowfields ~~comprise expanded metal mesh~~ ^{are} welded to the opposing sides of the thin metal sheet gas barrier.—

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2000 placing the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 5-25, 30-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 2, 5-25 and 30-63 have been amended to change "bipolar plate" to "bipolar separator plate" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claim 39 has been further amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "pores" and "fluid flowfield." Regarding claims 50-52, Applicant refers to the M.P.E.P. and asserts that when elements of a claim are so related as to constitute a proper Markush group, they may be recited in the conventional manner, or alternatively. For example, if "wherein R is a material selected from the group consisting of A, B, C and D" is a proper limitation, then "wherein R is A, B, C or D" shall also be considered proper. Applicant has amended claims 50-52 in accordance with the alternative manner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

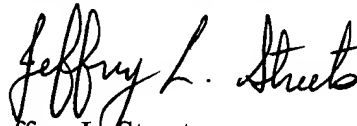
Claims 50-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one

skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The objectionable references to nickel and gold have been removed from claims 50-52. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant has submitted new claims 64-77 for the Examiner's consideration. Independent claim 64 is supported by the specification at previous claims 1 and 3 and at page 8, line 5. Claims 65-66 and 75 are supported by the specification at page 8, lines 8-13. Claims 67, 69 and 74 are supported by page 8, line 2. Claims 68, 70, 76 and 77 are supported by the specification at page 7, lines 24-26; page 8, lines 5-7. Claims 69 and 71 are supported by the specification at page 9, lines 15-17 and Figures 7-9 and 14-18. Claim 72 is supported by the specification at page 9, lines 2-3. Claim 73 is supported by the specification at previous claim 3 and at page 8, line 5.

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant asserts that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. In the event that any excess claims fees or any other fees are necessary to make this response timely or in a condition for examination, please charge such fees against the undersigned attorney's deposit account 50-0714/LYNN/0020.

Respectfully submitted,



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